Pcrmancn Membership of Security Council

†*394. SHRl SWARAJ KAUSH/\L ;

SHRI KRISHINA KUMAR' BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govcrniment are awa re of the recent report from U.S.A., that though the; U.S. President favours India's becoming a permanent member of the Security Council, the U.N. Resolution on Kashmir is the main obstacle;

(b) if so, whether Government have sought any clarification on the reports;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) what is Government's reaction with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFIARS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Government has seen news items, referred to in the Question, based on a remark attributed to President Clinton, in a Press Release by a private foundation in the United States.

(b) and (c) The statement referred to is not an official statement. It is not the policy of Government of India to seek clarifications on non-official press reports.

(d) It is Government's view that based on every objective criteria, India has a claim to permanent memebership in any expanded UnitecI Nationas Security Council.

Cooperative Societies in the Country

*395. DR. Y. LAKSHMl PRASAD ; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cooperative societies in the country;

(b) the demands made by the National Cooperative Union of India to solve their problems; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strength cooperative mo vement by working on National Cooperative policy ?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.